BELARUS

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State
President Aleksandr LUKASHENKO

Head of Government
Prime Minister Roman GOLOVCHENKO

Government Type
presidential republic, although in fact a dictatorship

Capital
Minsk

Legislature
bicameral National Assembly or Natsionalnoye Sobraniye (64 seats); House of Representatives or Palata Predstaviteley (110 seats)

Judiciary
Supreme Court (number of judges varies); Constitutional Court (consists of 12 judges)

Ambassador to US
Charge d'Affaires Dmitriy BASIK

US Ambassador
Charge d'Affaires Jenifer MOORE

GEOGRAPHY

Area
Total: 207,600 sq km
Land: 202,900 sq km
Water: 4,700 sq km

Climate
cold winters, cool and moist summers; transitional between continental and maritime

Natural Resources
timber, peat deposits, small quantities of oil and natural gas, granite, dolomitic limestone, marl, chalk, sand, gravel, clay

ECONOMY

Economic Overview
former Soviet republic; had well-developed industrial base; now outdated, inefficient, and dependent on subsidized Russian energy and preferential access to Russian markets; agricultural base is largely dependent on government subsidies.

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$179.4 billion (2017 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$18,900 (2017 est.)

Exports
$28.65 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Russia 43.9%, Ukraine 11.5%, UK 8.2% (2017)

Imports
$31.58 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Russia 57.2%, China 8%, Germany 5.1% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population
9.5 million (July 2020 est.)

Population Growth
-0.24% (2018 est.)

Ethnicity
Belarusian 83.7%, Russian 8.3%, Polish 3.1%, Ukrainian 1.7%, other 2.4%, unspecified 0.9% (2009 est.)

Belarus - 2020

Language
Russian (official) 70.2%, Belarusian (official) 23.4%, other 3.1% (includes small Polish- and Ukrainian-speaking minorities), unspecified 3.3% (2009 est.)

Religion
Orthodox 48.3%, Catholic 7.1%, other 3.5%, non-believers 41.1% (2011 est.)

Urbanization
urban population: 79.5% of total population (2020)
rate of urbanization: 0.44% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Literacy
99.8% (2018)

as of September 2020